Irrigated agricultural land

†2159. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total irrigated agricultural land during 1950-51;

(b) the total irrigated land in the country at the end of the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the amount spent since 1950 till the end of Ninth Five Year Plan for creation of additional irrigated land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Net Irrigated Area (NIA) figures are compiled by Ministry of Agriculture and are published under Land Use Statistics (LUS). As per latest LUS for the year 1998-99, the Net Irrigated Area in the country in 1950-51 was 20.853 million hectares and in the year 1998-99 was 57.053 million hectares.

(c) The total amount of public investment on creation of additional irrigated land in the country since 1950 till the end of Ninth Five Year Plan is about Rs. 132011 crore (provisional).

Protection of Umanand Island

2160. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Umanand Island at Guwahati, Assam is facing erosion problem for the last several years;

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to protect Umanand Island; and

(c) the details of financial allocation made by Government during the Tenth Five Year Plan to protect the above Island?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Flood Management including river erosion being a State subject, investigation, planning and implementation of flood management schemes are within the purview of the State Government. The Central Government renders assistance which are technical, catalytical and promotional in nature.

The State Government of Assam has informed that no major erosion has been observed at Umanand Island, which is located in the Brahmaputra river near Guwahati.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Private funding for Inter-linking of rivers

2161. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to invite private participation for funding the massive project to inter-link rivers announced recently;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the modalities to invite private participation have been worked out;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of progress made by the task force constituted for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (e) A Task Force on Inter-Linking of Rivers under the Chairmanship of Shri Suresh P. Prabhu, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha has been constituted on 13.12.2002. The terms of reference of the Task Force *inter-alia* include to provide guidance on modalities for project funding etc. The Task Force has been given a time table for preparation of an Action-Plan by 31st July 2003 for giving alternative options for funding and execution of the project as also the suggested methods for cost recovery.